



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

50

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/693,163	10/23/2003	Reiner Eschbach	D/A2327	1667
7590	05/12/2005		EXAMINER	
Ortiz & Lopez, PLLC P.O. Box 4484 Albuquerque, NM 87196-4484			RONES, CHARLES	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2164	
DATE MAILED: 05/12/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/693,163

Applicant(s)

ESCHBACH ET AL.

Examiner

Charles Rones

Art Unit

2164

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 January 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11,453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Amendment***

The amendment timely filed on January 18, 2005 has been entered.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stubler et al. (U.S. Patent 6,804,684).

Claims 1 and 10: As described at col. 3, lines 56-67, col. 5, lines 1-19, col. 6, lines 41-46, and col. 10, lines 1-13, the user can either accept the offered keywords or edit the keywords, which means that the user is presenting keywords which means that the user is presenting alternatives to those are supplied. Wherein the database statistics are deemed to be provided using a program module and the measurable high level and low features and histograms are the statistics at col. 7, lines 26-35 The time of entry for similar images are provided for during the image capture procedure at col. 6, lines 31-45 and col. 7, lines 26-35.

Claim 2: As described at col. 10, lines 1- 13, the user can either accept the offered keywords or edit the keywords, which means that the user is presenting alternatives to those keywords which are supplied.

Claims 3 and 11: Col. 10, lines 3-8 illustrate that the image along with the selected keywords are stored in the database. The selected keywords that are stored with the image are at least some of the keywords which were offered to the user.

Claims 4 and 12: If the offered keywords are edited (col. 10, line 2) the keywords stored in the database with the new image are alternative keywords.

Claims 5 and 13: The storage of the new image with its selected keywords inherently updates the database with a new occurrence (a new record in the database). The new image can in fact have a time and date stamp (col. 9, line 35) which is further readable as a time of storage in the database, as the act of storage can occur in the same date or year as the time that the image was captured.

Claims 6 and 14: The storage of the new image with alternative keywords (edited keywords) inherently updates the database with a new occurrence (a new record in the database). The new image can in fact have time and date stamp (col. 9, line 35) which is further readable as a time of storage in the database, as the act of storage can occur in the same date or year as the time that the image was captured.

Claims 7 and 15: Col. 10, lines 1-3 describes the presentation to user of an editable list of keywords. If the list is edited, the resulting edited words become alternative keywords. The list itself is a data entry field.

Claims 8 and 16: Col. 10, lines 1-6 describes the storage of the new images with either original keywords or alternative keywords produced by the editing action.

Claims 9 and 17: A new entry of an image in a database is readable as an entry of a new subgroup. Each new image and its associated keywords are a subgroup.

Claim 18: Stubler et al. discloses a memory device (12) which includes a database (col. system further includes a content retrieval module (computer 10) that 5, lines 38-39). The provides the image management and retrieval capabilities, a database statistics module (computer program of Figs. 5-7) that performs the analysis of the numerical information in the metadata of program of FIGS. 5-7) that performs the images, and a user interface (user input devices 22) that allows the user to accept or edit system suggestions for keywords attached to new images. The database statistics module is deemed to be updated during the capture time of new images that are being added or removed from the database thereby leaving it current (col. 6, lines 32-51 and col. 7, lines 26-35).

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed January 18, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's arguments are addressed above in the rejection of the claims and the Examiner maintains that Stubler discloses the claimed features.

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles Rones whose telephone number is 571-272-4085. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached on 571-272-4083. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Charles Rones  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2164

May 9, 2005